THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Oil potential in deep sea in India

*15. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge potential of attracting FDI in deep sea oil exploration in our country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the potential;

(c) whether any foreign companies have shown interest under New Exploration Licensing Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) India has 26 sedimentary basins covering both onland and offshore areas, including deep water areas. The prognosticated resources of hydrocarbons in the country are estimated to be about 28 billion metric tonne. Government has formulated New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), which provides equal opportunity for foreign and Indian companies to bid for exploration acreages, including those in deep waters, offered by the Government from time to time.

(c) and (d) The names of sixteen foreign companies, who had submitted bids for exploration blocks under the three rounds of NELP are given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the bidding foreign companies
1.	Energy Equity India Pty. Ltd., a subsidiary of Energy Equity Resources Ltd., Australia.
2.	South Asia Oil and Gas Plc., Australia.
3.	Niko Resources Ltd., Canada.
4.	Geo Global Resources Inc., Canada.

Sl. No.	Name of the bidding foreign companies
5.	Geo Petrol International, France.
6.	Petronas L.L.C., a subsidiary of Petronas, Malaysia.
7.	Petrom S.A., Romania.
8.	OAO Gazprom, Russia.
9.	Cairn Energy Discovery Ltd., Cairn Energy Hydrocarbons Ltd., Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd., Cairn Energy Petroleum India Ltd. and Cairn Energy Search Ltd., subsidiaries of Cairn Energy Plc., U.K.
10.	Hardy Exploration & Production India Inc., a subsidiary of Hardy Oil & Gas Ltd., U.K.
11.	Heramec Ltd., a subsidiary of Heritage Oil & Gas Ltd., U.K.
12.	Premier Oil (Eastern India), B.V., a subsidiary of Premier Oil Plc., U.K.
13.	Enron Oil & Gas India Ltd., a subsidiary of Enron Corporation, USA.
14.	Joshi Technologies Inc., USA.
15.	Mosbacher India L.L.C., a subsidiary of Mosbacher Energy Company, USA.
16.	RSM Production Corporation, USA.

Development of Buddhist Centres in Orissa

*16. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa Government has chalked out an ambitious plan to develop the State as a major destination for Buddhist tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Central Government propose to bear major portion of the expenses for development as reported in the New Indian Express dated 15th December, 2002; if so, the details thereof; and